

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and apparatus for replicating packet data within a network element are described herein. In one embodiment, a method includes storing packet data within a storage element, maintaining a transmit count value of the storage element, determining a release count value of the storage element, comparing the transmit count value and the release count value, and de-allocating the storage element in response to comparing the transmit count value and the release count value.